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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

JULIEN NGUYEN

Serial No.: N/Y/A (continuation of
parent application serial
no. 08/716,641)

Filed: Herewith (parent
filed Sept. 13, 1996)

For: Dynamic Downloading of Hypertext
Electronic Mail Messages

Art Unit: N/Y/A (parent: 2153)

Examiner: N/Y/A (parent: KENNETH
FIELDS)

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Office Action Mailed:

N/Y/A (parent: Office Action
mailed March 1, 2000)

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment for a continuation application filed herewith
under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b).

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 15, please insert the following heading and paragraph:

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation of application serial no. 08/716,641 filed September 13, 1996.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims such that the pending claims read as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for presenting electronic mail messages to an operator, including the steps of:

loading a plurality of headers from a mail server, each one of said headers associated with an electronic mail message addressed to at least said operator, each of said plurality of headers loaded separately from its associated electronic mail message;

receiving a dynamic selection of a first one of said electronic mail messages from said operator after at least one of said plurality of headers have been loaded and prior to said associated electronic mail message being loaded;

presenting said first electronic mail message to said operator;

identifying a second one of said electronic mail messages for preloading; and
preloading said second electronic mail message for later presentation, without
interrupting presentation of said first electronic mail message.

2. A method as in claim 1, including the steps of
presenting at least one of said plurality of headers to said operator; and
interrupting said step of loading said plurality of headers, responsive to said
dynamic selection of said first electronic mail message.

3. A method as in claim 1, including the step of presenting at least one of said
plurality of headers to said operator in a first window; wherein said step of presenting said first
electronic mail message uses a second window.

4. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, including the step of presenting to said
operator a status of said step of preloading said second electronic mail message.

5. (Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein said step of presenting includes
the steps of
displaying a partial preview of said second electronic mail message; and
altering said partial preview in response to a change in status of said step of
preloading said second electronic mail message.

6. A method as in claim 4, wherein said step of presenting includes the step of displaying a preview of said second electronic mail message in a distinct format.

7. A method as in claim 4, wherein said step of presenting includes the step of displaying at least one graphic element.

8. A method as in claim 4, wherein said step of presenting includes the step of displaying text.

9. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, including the steps of receiving a dynamic selection of a third one of said electronic mail messages from said operator;

interrupting said step of preloading said second electronic mail message, responsive to said dynamic selection of said third electronic mail message.

10. A method as in claim 1, including the steps of storing said second electronic mail message in memory; and presenting said second electronic mail message in response to selection thereof by said operator.

11. A method as in claim 1, wherein at least one of said electronic mail messages comprises a plurality of pages of hypertext for presentation to said operator.

12. A method as in claim 11, wherein said step of presenting said first electronic mail message to said operator includes the steps of
selecting one of said plurality of pages of hypertext; and
presenting said one page to said operator.

13. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a preference designated by said operator.

14. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a sender of said second electronic mail message.

15. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a set of recipients of said second electronic mail message.

16. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a priority value for said second electronic mail message.

17. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a keyword in one of said headers associated with said second electronic mail message.

18. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a keyword in said second electronic mail message.

19. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a size of said second electronic mail message.

20. (Amended) Apparatus for presenting electronic mail messages to an operator, said apparatus including:

a mail client disposed for coupling to a mail server using a communication link;

means at said mail client for loading a plurality of headers from a mail server,

each one of said headers associated with an electronic mail message addressed to at least said

operator, each of said plurality of headers loaded separately from its associated electronic mail message;

an input port at said mail client disposed for receiving a dynamic selection of a first one of said electronic mail messages from said operator after at least one of said plurality of headers have been loaded and prior to said associated electronic mail message being loaded;

an output port at said mail client disposed for presenting said first electronic mail message to said operator;

means at said mail client for identifying a second one of said electronic mail messages for preloading; and

means at said mail client for preloading said second electronic mail message for later presentation, without interrupting presentation of said first electronic mail message.

21. Apparatus as in claim 20, including an input element coupled to said input port.

22. Apparatus as in claim 20, including an output element coupled to said output port.

23. Apparatus as in claim 20, including

means for coupling at least one of said plurality of headers to said output port; and

means for interrupting said step of loading said plurality of headers, responsive to said dynamic selection of said first electronic mail message.

24. Apparatus as in claim 20, including

a first window coupled to said output port for presenting at least one of said plurality of headers to said operator; and

a second window coupled to said output port for presenting said first electronic mail messages to said operator.

25. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, including a progress indicator for preloading said second electronic mail message.

26. Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said progress indicator includes a partial preview of said second electronic mail message.

27. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said progress indicator includes a preview of said second electronic mail message in a distinct format.

28. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said progress indicator includes at least one graphic element.

29. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein said progress indicator includes text.

30. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, including
means for disposing said input port for receiving a dynamic selection of a third one of said electronic mail messages from said operator; and
means for interrupting preloading said second electronic mail message, responsive to dynamic selection of said third electronic mail message.

31. Apparatus as in claim 20, including
a memory;
means at said mail client for storing said second electronic mail message in said memory;
means at said mail client for reading said second electronic mail message from said memory in response to selection thereof by said operator.

32. Apparatus as in claim 20, wherein at least one of said electronic mail messages comprises a plurality of pages of hypertext for presentation to said operator.

33. Apparatus as in claim 32, including
means for selecting one of said plurality of pages of hypertext; and

means for coupling said one page to said output port.

34. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, wherein said mean for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a preference designated by said operator.

35. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a sender of said second electronic mail message.

36. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a set of recipients of said second electronic mail message.

37. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a priority value for said second electronic mail message.

38. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a keyword in one of said headers associated with said second electronic mail message.

39. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a keyword in said second electronic mail message.

40. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a size of said second electronic mail message.

41. (New) A computer program product including:

a computer usable storage medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing a computer to present electronic mail messages to an operator, said computer readable code including:

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a mail client disposed for coupling to a mail server using a communication link;

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a header load mechanism at said mail client configured to load a plurality of headers from a mail server, each one of said headers associated with an electronic mail message addressed to at least said operator, each of said plurality of headers loaded separately from its associated electronic mail message;

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a first input mechanism at said mail client configured to receive a dynamic selection of a first one

of said electronic mail messages from said operator after at least one of said plurality of headers have been loaded and prior to said associated electronic mail messages being loaded;

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a presentation mechanism configured to present said first electronic mail message to said operator;

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a selection mechanism as said mail client configured to identify a second one of said electronic mail messages for preloading; and

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a download mechanism at said mail client configured to preload said second electronic mail message for later presentation, without interrupting presentation of said first electronic mail message.

42. (New) The program product of claim 41 further including:

computer readable program code configure to cause said computer to effect an interrupt mechanism configured to interrupt the download mechanism, responsive to the first input mechanism.

43. (New) An apparatus for presenting electronic mail messages to an operator, the apparatus including:

a mail client disposed for coupling to a mail server using a communication link;

a header load mechanism at said mail client configured to load a plurality of headers from said mail server, each one of said headers associated with an electronic mail message addressed to at least said operator, each of said plurality of headers loaded separately from its associated electronic mail message;

a first input mechanism at said mail client configured to receive a dynamic selection of a first one of said electronic mail messages from said operator after at least one of said plurality of headers have been loaded and prior to said associated electronic mail messages being loaded;

a presentation mechanism configured to present said first electronic mail message to said operator;

a selection mechanism at said mail client configured to identify a second one of said electronic mail messages for preloading; and

a download mechanism at said mail client configured to preload said second electronic mail message for later presentation, without interrupting presentation of said first electronic mail message.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 43 further including:

an interrupt mechanism configured to interrupt the download mechanism, responsive to the first input mechanism.

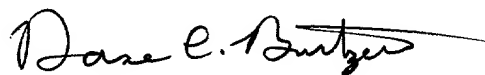
REMARKS:

The claims have been amended so as to conform substantially to the claims as pending before the last Office Action in the parent. In that Office Action, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Applicant's own specification in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,794,259 (Kikinis), alone or in various combinations with U.S. Patent No. 5,623,603 (Jiang), Using Netscape 2 (Brown), U.S. Patent No. 5,675,507 (Bobo II), and U.S. Patent No. 5,627,764 (Schutzman).

Applicant intends to file a Rule 131 Affidavit to swear behind Kikinis, thereby overcoming all outstanding claim rejections. See M.P.E.P. § 715 et seq.

Applicant's undersigned attorney can be reached at (614) 486-3585. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: April 30, 2001

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Changes to Specification

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(iii), changes to the specification effected by the accompanying paper are indicated below.

The following heading and paragraph have been inserted at page 1, line 15:

Cross Reference to Related Application

This application is a continuation of application serial no. 08/716,641 filed September 13, 1996.

Changes to Claims

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii), changes to any claims effected by the accompanying paper are indicated below.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 13 to 20, 25, 27 to 30, and 34 to 40 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for presenting electronic mail messages to an operator, including the steps of:

loading a plurality of headers from a mail server, each one of said headers associated with an electronic mail message addressed to at least said operator, each of said plurality of headers loaded separately from its associated electronic mail message;

receiving a dynamic selection of a first one of said electronic mail messages from said [an] operator after at least one of said plurality of headers have been loaded and prior to said associated electronic mail message being loaded;

presenting said first electronic mail message to said operator;

identifying a second one of said electronic mail messages for preloading; and

preloading [loading] said second electronic mail message for later presentation, without interrupting presentation of said first electronic mail message.

4. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, including the step of presenting to said operator a status of said step of preloading [loading] said second electronic mail message.

5. (Amended) A method as in claim 4, wherein said step of presenting includes the steps of

displaying a partial preview of said second electronic mail message; and

altering said partial preview in response to a change in status of said step of preloading [loading] said second electronic mail message.

9. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, including the steps of

receiving a dynamic selection of a third one of said electronic mail messages from said operator;

interrupting said step of preloading [loading] said second electronic mail message, responsive to said dynamic selection of said third electronic mail message.

13. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a preference designated by said operator.

14. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a sender of said second electronic mail message.

15. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a set of recipients of said second electronic mail message.

16. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a priority value for said second electronic mail message.

17. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a keyword in one of said headers associated with said second electronic mail message.

18. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a keyword in said second electronic mail message.

19. (Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a size of said second electronic mail message.

20. (Amended) Apparatus for presenting electronic mail messages to an operator, said apparatus including:

a mail client disposed for coupling to [ot] a mail server using a communication link;

means at said mail client for loading a plurality of headers from a mail server, each one of said headers associated with an electronic mail message addressed to at least said operator, each of said plurality of headers loaded separately from its associated electronic mail message;

an input port at said mail client disposed for receiving a dynamic selection of a first one of said electronic mail messages from said [an] operator after at least one of said plurality of headers have been loaded and prior to said associated electronic mail message being loaded;

an output port at said mail client disposed for presenting said first electronic mail message to said operator;

means at said mail client for identifying a second one of said electronic mail messages for preloading; and

means at said mail client for preloading [loading] said second electronic mail message for later presentation, without interrupting presentation of said first electronic mail message.

25. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, including a progress indicator for preloading [loading] said second electronic mail message.

27. (Amended) Apparatus [A method] as in claim 25 [4], wherein said progress indicator includes a preview of said send electronic mail message in a distinct format.

28. (Amended) Apparatus [A method] as in claim 25 [4], wherein said progress indicator includes at least one graphic element.

29. (Amended) Apparatus [A method] as in claim 25 [4], wherein said progress indicator includes text.

30. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, including
means for disposing said input port for receiving a dynamic selection of a third one of said electronic mail messages from said operator; and
means for interrupting preloading [loading] said second electronic mail message, responsive to dynamic selection of said third electronic mail message.

34. (Amended) Apparatus as in claim 20, wherein said mean for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a preference designated by said operator.

35. (Amended) Apparatus [A method] as in claim 20 [1], wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a sender of said second electronic mail message.

36. (Amended) Apparatus [A method] as in claim 20 [1], wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a set of recipients of said second electronic mail message.

37. (Amended) Apparatus [A method] as in claim 20 [1], wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a priority value for said second electronic mail message.

38. (Amended) Apparatus [A method] as in claim 20 [1], wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a keyword in one of said headers associated with said second electronic mail message.

39. (Amended) Apparatus [A method] as in claim 20 [1], wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a keyword in said second electronic mail message.

40. (Amended) Apparatus [A method] as in claim 20 [1], wherein said means for identifying a second electronic mail message for preloading is responsive to a size of said second electronic mail message.

Claims 41 to 44 have been added as follows:

--41. (New) A computer program product including:

a computer usable storage medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing a computer to present electronic mail messages to an operator, said computer readable code including:

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a mail client disposed for coupling to a mail server using a communication link;

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a header load mechanism at said mail client configured to load a plurality of headers from a mail server, each one of said headers associated with an electronic mail message addressed to at least said operator, each of said plurality of headers loaded separately from its associated electronic mail message;

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a first input mechanism at said mail client configured to receive a dynamic selection of a first one of said electronic mail messages from said operator after at least one of said plurality of headers have been loaded and prior to said associated electronic mail messages being loaded;

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a presentation mechanism configured to present said first electronic mail message to said operator;

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a selection mechanism as said mail client configured to identify a second one of said electronic mail messages for preloading; and

computer readable program code configured to cause said computer to effect a download mechanism at said mail client configured to preload said second electronic mail message for later presentation, without interrupting presentation of said first electronic mail message.

42. (New) The program product of claim 41 further including:

computer readable program code configure to cause said computer to effect an interrupt mechanism configured to interrupt the download mechanism, responsive to the first input mechanism.

43. (New) An apparatus for presenting electronic mail messages to an operator, the apparatus including:

a mail client disposed for coupling to a mail server using a communication link;

a header load mechanism at said mail client configured to load a plurality of headers from said mail server, each one of said headers associated with an electronic mail

message addressed to at least said operator, each of said plurality of headers loaded separately from its associated electronic mail message;

a first input mechanism at said mail client configured to receive a dynamic selection of a first one of said electronic mail messages from said operator after at least one of said plurality of headers have been loaded and prior to said associated electronic mail messages being loaded;

a presentation mechanism configured to present said first electronic mail message to said operator;

a selection mechanism at said mail client configured to identify a second one of said electronic mail messages for preloading; and

a download mechanism at said mail client configured to preload said second electronic mail message for later presentation, without interrupting presentation of said first electronic mail message.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 43 further including:

an interrupt mechanism configured to interrupt the download mechanism, responsive to the first input mechanism.--